

Team Washington Homeland Security Update

Homeland Security Highlights:

- The 13th Coast Guard District welcomes its new commander, Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck.
- Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) was cited as the only example of Regional Initiative Coordination in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) (pg. 53-54 line 38-43 & 1-8).
- January 7, 2006 Emergency Management Council Meeting, contact Walt Swenson at 253-512-7462.
- January 12, 2006 "Lessons Learned from Katrina" workshop. Contact dsummer@co.pierce.wa.us to register.
- February 1, 2006 Committee on Homeland Security, contact Alec Chapman at 253-512-7044.

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Goals, Partnerships, Growth: Key to Coast Guard Success

Washington State boasts more than 3,500 square-miles of waterways. Its coast maintains arguably the most treacherous waters in the world while offering the allure of rich fishing opportunity – a dangerous combination. East of Cape Flattery, the state's pristine waters offer complex and varied commercial and naval communities, an abundance of more than 1 million recreational boaters and the nation's largest ferry system. Five years ago Ahmed Ressay crossed the state's 125-mile maritime border with Canada, arriving with a carload of explosives. This same region also gained High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area status.

With such a wide ranging geography, maritime population and competing challenges, Washington's waters are considered one of the toughest operational management areas in the country. This complex marine environment creates the principle mission challenges faced by the 3,131 active duty, 510 reserve and 234

civilian members of the Coast Guard in Washington.

The service's success can be traced to clearly defined goals, growing some areas of the Coast Guard and well defined partnerships with cooperating agencies.

In the Pacific Northwest, the Coast Guard forces are commanded by Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck, Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District. His primary responsibilities are to provide the tools, training and policies to support the men and women doing the job in the field. According to Houck, clearly defined goals ensure those doing the work get the support they need. His personal philosophy is to achieve operational excellence through safe and sustainable operations, effective outcomes and efficient operations.

"Safe operations are paramount," according to Houck. "We must avoid exceeding limits of fatigue, of our capabilities and of our

equipment. We operate in an unforgiving environment where mistakes can be deadly."

Houck believes Coast Guard units must support overarching strategies that are purposely

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BELLINGHAM, Wash. (Feb. 10, 2005) *Border patrol agents co-located with Coast Guard Station Bellingham patrol together near the city of Bellingham Feb. 10, 2005. The agents have been co-located with Station Bellingham for more than a year now and work closely with Coast Guard law enforcement teams. USCG photo by PA3 Mike Zolzer.*

Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP)

Washington State received the third highest equipment award in the nation in Phase 1 of the new Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) for these jurisdictions: Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Cheney Fire Department, City of Monroe Police Department, City of Pullman Police Department, City of Yakima Fire Department, Garfield County Sheriffs Depart-

ment, Jefferson County Fire District #6, Jefferson County Fire District No. 2, Jefferson County Fire Protection District 1, Jefferson County Fire Protection District No.3, Kennewick Police Department, Moses Lake Police Department, Pierce County Fire District 23, Port Townsend Police Department, Puyallup Police Department, Quinalt Indian Nation, Snohomish County Fire

District 5, South Pierce Fire & Rescue, Swinomish Police Department, Upper Skagit Police Department. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Bainbridge Island Police Department, Chelan County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Colville Police Department, Colville

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Goals, Partnerships, Growth: Key to Coast Guard Success

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designed to reduce risk and complete missions. His philosophy of operational excellence also requires prioritization of time and getting the highest return on taxpayer's dollar. The search for more efficient ways of operating requires a constant review of processes, increased knowledge gathering and questioning what was done.

Before coming to Seattle, Houck served as the executive director of the Coast Guard's



Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck, Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District

Department of Homeland Security Transition Team which developed his working knowledge on the process of bringing organizations together for a common goal.

"Whether it is pollution prevention, maritime safety or security, we don't do it by ourselves," Houck said. "The Coast Guard relies on working with other people, be it Seattle, Portland or Grays Harbor Police or the different county representatives. Relationships have grown because everyone has been working together at all levels, everywhere from the chief of police to the people at the deck plates," said Houck. A working example of this is Coast Guard Station Bellingham which houses Coast Guard and Customs and Border Patrol boats.

According to Houck, the mission on the border isn't small and it requires strong international partnerships. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police share a common focus on stopping the flow of marijuana in the straight of Juan DeFuca and through the San Juan Islands. Last year district units, in cooperation with Canadian and other federal, state and local authorities, seized \$13,261.26 worth of drugs.

"The Coast Guard has always had strong partnerships with other organizations," Houck said. "Organizations here in the Northwest have a common purpose and

realize they have to work together."

The greatest aspect of the partnerships in relation to homeland security is information sharing. "It's one of the areas that are becoming more and more important in homeland security," Houck said. "The Joint Terrorism Task Force has all kinds of partners, and the U.S. Attorney is reaching out to get information sharing with all the locals. If we're trying to find a bad guy, something unusual or an anomaly in the operations, we are not going to do it with the couple hundred Coast Guard people we have here," he added. "It's going to come from the police, the ticket takers, and the people who ride the ferry everyday."

The process of meeting the needs of the nation relies on growth of the Coast Guard's organization, according to Houck. Coast Guard Sectors have replaced Groups and Marine Safety Offices to bring response and prevention assets under one command. Most missions however have not undergone a drastic change. "I think most of our missions are relatively mature, and at that point you can only make incremental improvements," Houck explained. "Homeland security is the other way. Two months from now we will be doing things radically different from two months ago."

Although response is in the limelight, the deterrent mission is a key focus for Houck who believes success is measured by preventing incidents from happening before having to respond. "The boats out there are doing a pollution patrol, homeland security as well as being able to respond to any search and rescue, and it's a deterrent for all of those," Houck said.

The Coast Guard has shifted its structure from organization by mission area such as marine safety, search and rescue and law enforcement, to an across-the-board response and prevention model, an example of which is Operation Safe Crab. As part of Operation Safe Crab, Coast Guard fishing vessel safety personnel provide basic safety training to operators and crew members of fishing vessels. The operation's spot

checks, inspections and training began in 2000, following three vessel accidents that claimed six lives. Since that year, fatalities during the crab season have been significantly reduced. There was one death related to the Dungeness Crab fishery in the spring of 2005.

"The prevention piece to me is more important than the response piece, because if you prevent it, you don't have to respond to it," he said. Houck believes prevention is especially important when dealing with the Homeland Security mission.

"When you bring people together that have different talents, you get much more than just one and one," Houck said. "Not only do we get information from everybody, but there are lessons in better ways of doing things."

With continued cooperation from his partners Houck and the Thirteenth Coast Guard District will be ready to meet the challenges of Washington's maritime community.

Team Washington Homeland Security

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Editors

Amy Cook
Jill Bushnell

Washington Military Department
Building 1
Camp Murray, WA 98430
Phone: 253-512-8108
Fax: 253-512-8497

Web Site

<http://emd.wa.gov/5-prog/wahsas/wahsas-idx.htm>

Please send articles, announcements, helpful links and events for the next issue by February 15, 2006 to Amy Cook, Homeland Security Strategic Planner at Amy.Cook@mil.wa.gov.

Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP)

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Tribes Fire Rescue, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Kettle Falls Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Pierce County Fire District 18, San Juan County Sheriff's Office, San Juan Fire District 3, Stevens County Fire District #2, Stevens County Fire Protection District #1, Stevens County Sheriff's Ambulance, Sumas Police Department, Tumwater Police Department, and Walla Walla Police Department.

CEDAP is an innovative program designed

to transfer needed equipment to small jurisdictions. Typically, these jurisdictions have been unable to acquire this equipment through other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs. Eligible applicants include law enforcement agencies and other emergency responders who demonstrate in their application that the equipment will be used in working relationships with other first responders, to include plans for sharing of equipment, joint training, or joint operational planning. Eligible jurisdic-

tions have to show that they have been unsuccessful in acquiring CEDAP equipment or funding for them through other DHS programs. CEDAP applications are submitted on-line CEDAP through the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) at www.rkb.mipt.org.

Applications for Phase II of CEDAP program are being accepted online from November 7, 2005 through January 13, 2006.

FFY06 Homeland Security Grant Program

On December 2, 2005, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released the Federal Fiscal Year 2006 (FFY06) Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) application requirements and grant guidance. This year, homeland security funds under the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Program will be allocated to states using a quasi-competitive process.

In prior years, DHS distributed homeland security funds to states according to each state's population. This year, Congress mandated that funds be allocated to states based on risk and need. As such, each state

will be required to complete a three to five year Enhancement Plan and corresponding Initiatives, which are high level narratives about our current gaps and how we intend to bridge those gaps. Each state will submit an Enhancement Plan with corresponding Investment Justifications, which identify the projects to be completed under the Homeland Security Grant Program's 24-month performance period.

Each state's application, Enhancement Plan and corresponding Investment Justifications must be submitted to DHS by March 2, 2006. Investment Justifications will be scored by a federal panel and peer reviews. That raw score will be combined with a risk

factor (determined by DHS) specific to each state and states will be notified of award amounts in June 2006.

Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division hosted a three-day workshop on December 12-14, 2005, to begin the process of building an Enhancement Plan and Initiatives based upon 13 national and state priorities and will submit the statewide application to DHS on March 2, 2006.

For more information, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy2006hsgp.pdf

Capabilities Review and Enhancement Plan Workshop

On December 12-14, 2005, nearly 250 emergency responders from across the state gathered at the Tacoma Sheraton to participate in a three-day workshop to prepare a statewide Enhancement Plan. This plan is required by Department of Homeland Security and it complements the state's Homeland Security Strategic Plan.

Participants focused on 13 overarching priorities, identified statewide strengths and weaknesses for each priority, and then created high level Initiatives that explained how the state can bridge the current gaps.

The Enhancement Plan, when complete, will

provide state agencies, local jurisdictions and tribes a three to five year, multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional enterprise plan. It will be used to leverage funding in the FFY06 Homeland Security Grant Program, and should be utilized by all stakeholders to leverage funding from other federal, state or local funding sources.

National and State Priorities, from the National Preparedness Goal, include:

- Information/Intelligence Sharing
- Interoperable Communications
- National Response Plan/National Inci-

dent Management System

- Explosive Device Response Operations
- CBRNE Detection
- WMD/HazMat Response
- Law Enforcement Operations
- Medical Surge
- Mass Prophylaxis
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Regional Collaboration
- Citizen Preparedness
- Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense

Plain Talk About Pandemic Flu

**By Maxine Hayes, MD,
MPH, Washington
State Health Officer**

What is it? And what you can do to prepare

You've probably been hearing a lot about pandemic flu lately. It's been in the headlines and on the nightly news. To put it simply, a pandemic is an outbreak on multiple continents at the same time. It's usually caused by a new virus that people are not immune to, and for which there's no vaccine.

Avian flu is the virus most experts are concerned about right now. There haven't been any cases in the United States; however, there have been several in other countries. So far avian flu has not been able to spread easily from person-to-person, but that could change.

A massive influenza outbreak like this would affect us all. Many of our friends and family would get sick and, sadly, some might even die. Many of our co-workers would be out of the office for weeks. Schools, theaters, churches, sporting events – anywhere people gather in groups – would be disrupted.

It's not easy to hear, but these would be the harsh realities of a pandemic.

At the Washington State Department of Health, we're working with our local, state and federal partners to prepare our communities for a pandemic. We're on the look out for unusual viruses, using the latest technology to test and identify them.

We're working closely with our border states as well as Alaska and Canadian border provinces to share information, monitor and track disease and plan a regional response. We are also coordinating our work with other state agencies including the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. And we're working with hospitals, businesses and others to get ready to manage the challenges that a pandemic would present.

You can help by making sure you're personally prepared for all types of emergencies, including a pandemic flu outbreak. It's amazing how the simple "Good Health Manners" Mom taught us can help prevent the spread of germs: covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough; washing your hands often; and staying home when you're ill.

We must rethink the workplace culture that honors the "iron man or woman" who shows up for work no matter how sick. It's common to praise them for their selfless dedication. That must change. Employers

should encourage people who are sick to stay home, get better, and avoid spreading illness to coworkers. In a pandemic, that would be crucial.

It is possible a pandemic could affect the services we rely on every day. That's why you should prepare for a pandemic like any other emergency. Have enough food and water, prescription medications, and other necessities on-hand so you can get by on your own for at least three to five days.

The Washington State Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Management have produced a disaster preparedness handbook. It includes easy to understand fact sheets, a checklist and other valuable information to help families prepare for many types of emergencies. It's available online at www.doh.wa.gov.

The Department of Health Web site also includes links to other great sources of information, including a fact sheet for hunters about avian flu and answers to some other common questions about flu pandemics.

Preparing for a pandemic will take all of us. Educate yourself, share this information with friends, and help us make Washington safer and healthier for everyone.

Washington to Implement a Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications System

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- The tragedy of September 11, 2001, and the recent hurricanes that devastated portions of the southern United States created an urgent need for public safety agencies across the nation to examine how they communicate with each other in times of disaster.

Many police, fire, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders operate different radio communications systems and frequencies that often do not allow them to communicate with each other. This slows their ability to function in all types of situations – whether it's a natural disaster, an accident, or a terrorist attack.

prove public safety communications

To address this communications issue, the Washington State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) developed the Technical Implementation Plan (TIP). The TIP is a critical milestone in the effort to improve public safety communications interoperability in Washington state. Interoperability allows public safety personnel to communicate on demand and in real time across jurisdictions and disciplines. The TIP outlines the costs and the implementation process, and identifies the critical factors and next steps the state must take to advance the plan.

public safety personnel communicate in real time and on demand

The SIEC selected a multiple subsystems architecture. This approach is a centrally-managed system of systems and is not restricted to a single frequency band or technology. It will allow the state to leverage existing radio systems in all the public safety radio bands, and provide a phased migration to a standards-based architecture infrastructure – establishing a fully interoperable radio system. This will also enable local governments to partner with the state to provide greater levels of interoperability.

State develops technical plan to im-

SIEC selects proposed system to help

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Washington to Implement a Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications System

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Pending funding, the SIEC will implement the proposed system over a six-year period, starting with a one-year procurement phase that includes developing detailed technical specifications, and selecting and procuring the system's technical components.

Agencies that use the proposed system will maintain control over their portable and mobile radios, dispatch centers and console equipment.

SIEC members and key stakeholders will continue to provide oversight and planning, and manage the development and enforcement of standards.

Significant benefits of the proposed system

State estimates proposed system costs

The estimated system acquisition and recurring costs are as follows:

Proposed system recurring operation and maintenance costs will total \$177 million over the next ten years.

Next steps

During the next several months, SIEC members will communicate the details of the TIP and the state's effort to advance the

plan to stakeholders. You are encouraged to identify how the plan aligns with interoperable communication projects in your community by contacting the staff of the SIEC or your SIEC representative directly. To look up the name and e-mail address of your SIEC representative, visit the SIEC Web site at <http://isb.wa.gov/committees/siec/members.aspx>.

To read the TIP, visit the SIEC Web site at <http://isb.wa.gov/committees/siec/index.aspx>. For more information or questions, contact Dennis Hausman, staff of the SIEC, at 360-902-3463 or via e-mail at dennish@dis.wa.gov

Interstate Mutual Aid Going Further Than It's Ever Gone

By Beverly Bell, Policy Analyst, National Emergency Management Association and Terry Egan, Ed. D., Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

The importance of regional collaboration and interstate cooperation has become painfully clear during the Hurricane Katrina response. While Louisiana and Mississippi residents are still reeling from the devastation, 47 states have stepped in with people, equipment and supplies.

Facilitating and deploying much of this critical assistance is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a state-to-state mutual aid agreement that paves the way for support across state lines in an emergency. In the months since the hurricane hit, EMAC has deployed more than 66,000 personnel (including almost 47,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen) as well as other resources, totaling approximately \$828 million in aid to the Gulf Coast.

The compact's significant role in the Katrina response underscores why the federal gov-

ernment considers mutual aid a cornerstone in preparing the country for either a natural or manmade disaster. No government – local, state or federal – has all the resources to respond to all disasters.

Mutual aid compacts help bridge the gap. In the most recent draft of the National Preparedness Goal, a document which identifies capabilities the U.S. should have to prevent, respond to and recover from a major disaster, expanding regional collaboration is cited as a national priority. Due to be published in December, the goal also says that all government entities should have mutual aid agreements in place in order to perform the necessary preparedness mission and tasks, and use existing resources more efficiently.

EMAC is a leading example of such an agreement. Ratified by Congress in 1996 as law (Public Law 104-321) and administered by the National Emergency Management Association, the compact has well-defined operations for coordination and deployment. It uses established protocols that allow reimbursement from the requesting state to all assisting states. EMAC also has procedures to resolve workers compensation and liability issues.

Each member state is required to get state legislative approval to become part of EMAC. Currently, 49 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are members. Because of its location, Hawaii has not joined the compact, but membership discussions are currently underway in the state.

EMAC provides assistance in a disaster *only* after two things happen; the governor of the affected state declares a state of emergency and the affected state asks for help. Often, the state of emergency is done before the actual event, allowing EMAC to pre-stage resources and be in position.

Once the state requests assistance, an EMAC response begins:

- The extensive EMAC database, with a notification/tracking system, communicates information about the event among member states.
- An EMAC A-Team, the lead group assigned to a disaster event, works with the affected state in determining its needs.
- Other EMAC member states are contacted with these requests.
- The A-Team helps the affected state determine the availability of requested

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Interstate Mutual Aid Going Further Than It's Ever Gone

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resources and the costs.

- The affected state completes requisition orders and finalizes cost negotiation.
- Resources are sent to the requesting state.
- Fulfilled requests are communicated to all member states as they are met.
- The assisting state asks for and receives reimbursement.

Throughout the process, various EMAC leadership teams interface and coordinate with state, regional, federal jurisdictions and other government entities.

The scale of the disaster determines the level of the EMAC operation. The Katrina response demanded a Level 1 operation, the highest activation. Level 1 can include an EMAC National Coordinating Team, which is co-located at the National Response Coordination Center in the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and Regional Coordinating Teams, which are co-located at FEMA regional response coordination centers. All levels of EMAC operation include an A-Team and the EMAC National Coordinating Group, which provides oversight and is a key element in the overall governance of the compact.

There are several important distinctions to remember about EMAC. First, it is not a federal program or part of the federal government. Second, it is a state-to-state agreement. Assistance is coordinated through the state emergency management agency. Local and county governments that want to offer aid must work through their state emergency management office and should not directly contact the state asking for assistance. Finally, EMAC does not deploy individuals acting on their own accord.

Ironically, it was another hurricane – Andrew – that precipitated the formation of EMAC. Considered one of the most destructive hurricanes in U.S. history, Andrew struck in 1992, causing 26 direct deaths

and more than \$25 billion in damages.

As the state struggled to rebuild, then Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles suggested that the 19 members of the Southern Governors Association establish some type of formal mechanism for states to provide help to one another in times of disasters. Originally known as the Southern Regional Emergency Management Assistance Compact, the agreement grew and in 1993, evolved into EMAC. After it was signed into law, EMAC became the first national disaster-relief agreement to be ratified by Congress since the Civil Defense Compact of 1950.

In the Katrina response, EMAC has deployed everything from National Guard troops to nurses. The compact has facilitated representatives from many different disciplines such as law enforcement, fire-fighting, public health, transportation and human services. Equipment runs the gamut as well, from Medevac helicopters to diapers, from boats to water purification systems.

Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) has been in the thick of the action, deploying 89 personnel from state and local agencies who worked in disciplines as varied as logistics, public information, and housing inspection as well as emergency management. One of those who deployed was Ute Weber, an exercise coordinator in EMD. She was assigned to the EMAC A-team operating in the State of Mississippi EOC in Jackson. When asked about her experience she replied: "What the deployment showed me is the importance of EMAC because individual states don't have the resources to effectively deal with a truly catastrophic event by themselves. Another thing that impressed me was how the emergency management community pulled together to do their best for the affected states. It was personally and professionally very rewarding to be able to deploy on an EMAC assignment". As of this writing, Washington State is still supporting the affected states. Jeannette Lomax, an EMD planning coordinator, is on an A-team assignment to the State EOC in Baton Rouge,

Louisiana.

Given the scope of the disaster, it's possible that EMAC will continue to deploy assistance for months. In the meantime, the compact is taking the lessons it has learned and identifying best practices. It is continuing efforts to educate government entities, not only about EMAC, but also about intra-state agreements, which allow communities within a state to provide assistance to one another. The end goal is to improve response to all major disasters while using available resources in the smartest and most cost-effective ways.

"Because major events will undoubtedly have a regional impact, there is no greater necessity than to collaborate on a regional basis to leverage expertise, share specialized assets, enhance capacity, and interoperate cohesively and effectively. Expanded Regional Collaboration supports the development of a seamless, national network of mutually-supporting capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from the full spectrum of threats and hazards."

National Preparedness Guidance

Homeland Security
Presidential Directive 8:
National Preparedness
U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
April 27, 2005

Ready Campaign

Ready is a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation.

Ready and its Spanish language version *Listo* ask individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

The campaign's messages have been distributed through traditional public service campaign vehicles including: television, radio and print public service advertisements (PSAs); brochures; www.ready.gov and www.listo.gov websites; and a toll free phone line, 1-800-BE READY.

Homeland Security and the Ad Council has also worked to create partnerships with a variety of private sector organizations to help communicate these important messages and materials, including the Boy Scouts of America, Minor League Baseball, The Association of Directory Publishers, The Yellow Pages Integrated Media Association, The National Cable and Telecommunications Association, The Salvation Army and The National Association of Broadcasters.

The Ad Council has declared Ready one of the most successful campaigns in its more than 60-year history. Since its launch the campaign has generated more than \$465 million in donated media support. As of October 31, 2005, the website has received more than 1.9 billion hits and 22 million unique visitors; the toll-free number has received over 244,000 calls; and more than 4.7 million brochures have been requested or downloaded from the website.

While it is too early to effectively gauge the long term effects of the campaign on public preparedness, thus far there are indications of progress. A national survey

conducted by the Ad Council in July 2005 found:

80% of Americans agreed that taking some simple steps to prepare could do a lot to protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency

58% of Americans have taken at least one of the three emergency preparedness steps recommended by the Ready campaign – getting an emergency supply kit; making a family emergency plan and becoming informed about different threats and their appropriate responses

32% of those who have seen one of the campaign's PSAs have made a family emergency plan, compared to 18% among those who have not seen a Ready PSA.

In 2004, Homeland Security and the Ad Council launched *Ready Business*, an extension of the *Ready* campaign that focuses on business preparedness. *Ready Business* helps owners and managers of small to medium-sized businesses prepare their employees, operations and assets in the event of an emergency. The campaign's messages are being delivered through a website (www.ready.gov), brochures, radio, print and internet advertisements, as well as key partnerships.

In 2006, Homeland Security will launch *Ready Kids*, a tool to help parents and teachers educate children ages 8 - 12 about emergencies and how they can help get their family prepared. The program will include a family-friendly website (www.ready.gov) and in-school materials.

The *Ready* campaign is directed at raising Americans' awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness. The campaign works in tandem with Citizen Corps, Homeland Security's community program. Citizen Corps localizes the campaign's preparedness messages and provides local opportunities for citizens to get emergency response training; participate in community exercises; and volunteer to support local emergency responders. Currently, there are over 1,720 Citizen Corps councils throughout the country working to make America safer and more

secure.

One of Homeland Security's key priorities is helping individuals and communities become better prepared to protect against or respond to emergencies, either natural or man made disasters. The *Ready* campaign and Citizen Corps help engage the public and encourage them to prepare for emergencies. These programs are a critical part of a better prepared America.

Homeland Security also promotes public emergency preparedness through National Preparedness Month, a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross cosponsored National Preparedness Month 2005 and more than 190 national organizations and all 56 states and territories joined the National Preparedness Month Coalition and distributed information, hosted events and sponsored activities across the country to promote emergency preparedness.

The Ready campaign is a national public service advertising campaign produced by the Advertising Council in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. Individuals interested in receiving a "Get Ready Now" brochure may call 1-800-BE-READY or visit www.Ready.gov for more information. Citizen Corps, Homeland Security's grassroots effort, localizes Ready's preparedness messages and provides a local opportunities for citizens to get emergency response training; participate in community exercises; and volunteer to support local first responders. To learn more and to get involved, contact your nearest Citizen Corps Council by visiting www.CitizenCorps.gov.

Around the Regions**Personnel**

Yakima County is currently surveying the county for volunteers who are willing to help in a disaster.

Planning

Yakima County is working on a project to identify who the Incident Commanders are in the area. Also, they are working on Regional Disaster Coordination and Staging Center plans.

Yakima Nation will be looking into setting up Mutual Aid agreements next month.

Walla Walla County is working with a contractor to coordinate a

Organization and Leadership

Hurricane Response in Region 3

Region 3 VISTA member, Tyler Ray, spent 21 days in November contributing to the recovery efforts in Southwest Louisiana with the American Red Cross. His work included driving the Emergency Response Vehicle, performing damage assessment, and preparing and delivering hot meals to victims of Hurricane Rita. Gaining hands-on emergency management experience

in the field has brought a new perspective and significance to the community emergency preparedness outreach and education that Tyler accomplishes throughout the region.

Region 8 Counties continue to meet to coordinate activities throughout the region on a monthly basis.

In Klickitat County, an interlocal

agreement between the county and the three cities was signed and adopted. Also in Klickitat County, a new Board of Directors has been established for Emergency Management.

Exercises, Evaluations, and Corrective Actions

Region 8 Counties will be participating in a Tabletop Exercise with Public Health in February 2006.

Walla Walla County held an Immunization Clinic October 18-20, 2005. All organizations activated Incident Command. Many of

the organizations would like to continue the clinic annually just as it was conducted this year.

**Equipment and Training****EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS:**

Yakima County has completed their Interoperability Communications study.

Benton County conducted a workshop with the 2-1-1 organization.

TRAINING:

Region 3 Unified Command for Multi-agency and Catastrophic Incidents

This course helped participants gain a better understanding of the complexities of multi-agency incidents and the skills necessary to operate effectively in that complex environment. Participants were

exposed to lectures and activities designed to promote a better understanding of multi-agency needs and a Unified Command structure.

Region 3 WMD Tactical Commanders Course

This well-attended course addressed technical aspects associated with planning a tactical law enforcement response to a WMD incident. As such, it provided detailed technical information, including practical exercises, giving tactical commanders the knowledge and skills to plan for effective, safe tactical operations in WMD environments.

Region 3 CERT Training

Provided CERT training to the safety committees of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and Employment Security Division in Olympia. In addition, Region 3 provided CERT training to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol, Jeep Patrol, and ARES/RACES volunteer groups. Also, capitalizing on citizens' increased interest in preparedness following the hurricanes, Region 3 has increased the number of disaster preparedness presentations that it is offering both through direct delivery and in partnership with nonprofit agencies, television stations, and local governments.



Region 3 CERT Training

Equipment and Training

NIMS requirements for training are being met throughout Region 8 counties and tribe.

Region 8 held PER 220: Response to Domestic Biological Incidents training for 35 participants from all over the region and surrounding regions located at the Joint Training Center in Kennewick. The course was conducted by Louisiana State University and was very well received.

Upcoming training courses that are being held in Region 8:

PER 221: WMD Tactical Ops

FULL 1/9-13/06 Kennewick, WA
Contact: Alisa Johnson, BCEM

Awareness 122: Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts

Some seats available 1/24/06 Walla Walla County Contact: Liz Jessee, WWEM

Franklin County held a NIMS Class conducted by the State EMD for training, requirements, and planning. Many public officials, fire, and emergency management

personnel attended the class from all over the region.

Benton-Franklin CERT – Benton-Franklin CERT held a final with 17 participants attending on October 29. The next session of CERT is scheduled for January, starting January 9 through February 4, 2006. Additional training is currently being scheduled. Topics are to be determined. Two CERT members are graduating from an EMT program and have been accepted into the local Paramedic Program. Will Judkins, one of the Benton-Franklin CERT instructors, has been named Fire Fighter of the Year. Congratulations Will!



Around the Regions

Walla Walla CERT/SERT – Classes are going well. Pioneer Middle School has adopted SERT as part of their academic courses, as other schools in Walla Walla County have as well. They are working with Walla Walla Community College and putting on a CERT class for their staff members.



Yakima County CERT – Yakima County is planning another session for the early part of 2006.

Register for the 2006 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference

MEDIA CONTACT: Chandra E. Fox, Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (425)776-3722

Camp Murray, WA – The 2006 *Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference* will be held April 18 and 19, 2006. The largest and most successful regional emergency preparedness conference in the Pacific Northwest, *Partners in Emergency Preparedness* annually hosts over 500 people representing business, schools, government, the non-profit sector, emergency management professionals and volunteer organizations.

The conference is presented through a partnership between the Washington State Emergency Management Division and the American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties and is sponsored by local business interests including Perkins Coie, Audience Central, Seattle Public Utilities and Puget Sound Energy.

"The *Partners in Emergency Preparedness*

Conference provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to network with others from throughout the state and to learn from those who have dealt with crises within the state or at the national level," said Lisa Scott, Conference Chairperson. "Attendees also have the opportunity to speak with numerous vendors, learning what is new in emergency response equipment and technology."

"We are excited to be able to accommodate our growing attendance," she added. "For 2006 we are hosting the event at the Tacoma Convention Center and we are encouraging people from Oregon and Idaho to attend."

Guest speakers and lecturers will present a wide variety of topics including: Pandemic Influenza; Crisis Communications; Special Needs Populations; School Safety Coordina-

tion; Psychological Impact of Terrorist Incidents to name just a few.

Conference registration begins February 1, 2006. Registration includes all concurrent and general sessions, all conference materials, two lunches and the networking reception on Tuesday, April 18, 2006. Registration by March 1, 2006 is \$225.00; by March 30 it is \$275.00; and after March 30, \$375.00. The two day conference will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, Washington. For more information, or to register for the Conference, please call Washington State University Conferences and Professional Programs at 800-942-4978 or visit the Conference website: <http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep>

Catastrophic Incident Response Planning & Preparedness Briefing



Catastrophic Incident Response Planning and Preparedness -- Lessons Learned from the Katrina Response and Implications for HSPD #8 -

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is hosting a briefing on Catastrophic Incident Response Planning and Preparedness from the first declared Incident of National Significance - Hurricane Katrina -- and the implications for a major earthquake response as defined by the National Earthquake Scenario.

All Operational leaders of local fire, EMS, law enforcement; Elected Officials; Hospital Leaders; Emergency Management, Public Health, Transportation, and Communications Leaders as well as Non-Governmental Organizations are invited.

January 12, 2006
08:00 – 12:00 Hrs
Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds
110 9th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371

Registration Deadline:

January 5, 2006

(Seating is limited to those registered – Check in will be from 7:30 – 08:00 am on Jan 12)

To register:

E-mail Donna Summers dsummer@co.pierce.wa.us

With your Name, Title, Agency, Email address & Telephone number

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



- ◆ Basic knowledge to protect yourself and others
- ◆ Response to Bird Flu, WMD, and many other scenarios
- ◆ Understand PPE limitations
- ◆ PPE ranges from simple mask to a fully encapsulated suit

www.hsi.wa.gov

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Certificate given on completion and included in state database

Free, flexible, accessible 24/7

Meets ODP overtime/backfill requirements

Earn certificate for current knowledge (test now!)




Bioterrorism Exercise 2006

The Department of Health is coordinating the 2006 annual bioterrorism drill this April in Pierce County. Like last year's exercise in southwest Washington, the exercise will occur in several locations throughout Pierce County and will involve federal, state and local agencies including DOH, the state Emergency Management Division, county and city governments and other emergency response personnel. The three-day exercise, titled TA-HOMA RESILIENCE 2006, will take place April 4-6, 2006

A bioterrorism exercise is conducted each year to test the plans that state emergency response agencies have written to respond to public health emergencies, particularly those resulting from acts of terrorism. Stay tuned for more updates as the exercise date approaches.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov>

Washington Military Department Sponsors Multi-Year Exercise Program

The Washington Military Department is sponsoring a multi-year homeland security exercise series starting in May of 2006. The exercises will focus on interagency coordination and support. They will combine full scale exercises at the local level with reporting through City and County operations centers to the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray. The exercises will also include deployment of Federal and State resources in support of the local agencies and jurisdictions.

The first exercise, entitled EVERGREEN SENTRY 06 (ES 06), will run from May 15th to May 25th, 2006. ES 06 is centered on Washington State Homeland Security Region 1, which is comprised of Whatcom,

San Juan, Skagit, Island and Snohomish Counties. Emergency management agencies, and police, fire and sheriff's departments in three counties (Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish) will participate in a series of full scale exercises from the 22nd to the 24th of May. A total of 30 local, State and Federal organizations and agencies are participating in Evergreen Sentry 06.

The goal of ES 06 is to continue developing interagency coordination and cooperation in response to a terrorist-related series of events. The Washington Military Department acts as the lead agency to solicit support for, and provides scenario-development and computer support to, the exercise. The Military Department is also

sponsoring exercises to be held in May of 2007, 2008 and 2009. The exercises will retain a combination of local full-scale exercises with reporting and support by military forces to civil authorities. The goal of the exercise series is to increase participation across the State and to include more Federal partners. The ultimate goal is to conduct cross-border coordination and support with local and Federal Canadian organizations and agencies.

Observers are welcome at ES 06. Please contact Doug Mayne in the Washington National Guard Joint Headquarters (253-512-8244) if you are interested in participating or observing ES 06 or are interested in participating in the out-year exercises.

Acronym Round-Up

ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service	ESD - Educational Service District	RIIG - Regional Incident Information Gathering
CBRNE - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive	FFY - Federal Fiscal Year	SIEC - State Interoperability Executive Committee
CERT - Community Emergency Response Team	HAZMAT - Hazardous Materials	T-T-T - Train the Trainer Courses
CBPI - Capabilities-Based Planning Instrument	HLS - Homeland Security	TTX - Table-Top Exercise
DEM - Director of Emergency Management	HSI - Homeland Security Institute	USCG - United States Coast Guard
DIS - Department of Information Services	IWN - Integrated Wireless Network	VATS - Vessel and Terminal Security (Division within WSP)
DHS -Department of Homeland Security	MTR - Marine Terrorism Response (Project)	WACIRC - Washington Computer Incident Response Center
DOH - Department of Health	NaCO - National Association of Counties	WAJAC - Washington Joint Analytical Center
EM - Emergency Management	NIMCAST - National Incident Management System Capabilities Assessment Support Tool	WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction
EMD - Emergency Management Division (Washington Military Department)	NIMS - National Incident Management System	WSDOT - Washington State Department of Transportation
EMS - Emergency Medical Services	NPG - National Preparedness Goal	WSEMA - Washington State Emergency Management Association
EOC - Emergency Operations Center	ODP - Office of Domestic Preparedness	WSF - Washington State Ferry
EPRI - Emergency Preparedness Resource Inventory	PC-NET - Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams	WSP - Washington State Patrol
	RIG - Regional Intelligence Group	